



European Organic Verification Program Producer Additional Requirements

European Organic Standards

The US National Organic Program and the European organic standards are similar in most areas. The European organic standards have additional requirements that are not included in the US National Organic Program. In order to comply with European organic standards, the following requirements must be met *in addition to* the standards set forth by the National Organic Program. These additional requirements are adopted from the European Council Regulation No. 2092/91 (EEC 2092/91) and the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements Basic Standards (IFOAM).

A copy of the European Regulation (EEC 2092/91) can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/organic/imports/index.htm>. A copy of the IFOAM Basic Standards IFOAM can be found at <http://www.ifoam.org/standard/norms/cover.html>. If you would like a hard copy of these regulations mailed to you, please contact our office at (360) 902-1805, FAX (360) 902-2087, or email organic@agr.wa.gov.

Additional Requirements for European Organic Certification

A. Scope

1. Producers that wish to participate in the European program must apply for European Organic Verification Program certification when applying for National Organic Program certification or during the yearly renewal process.
2. Producers who wish to have products certified under the European program must keep records regarding the product's compliance with these additional requirements as well as compliance with the National Organic Program.
3. Organic products certified under the European program must be protected from commingling with organic products certified for domestic sales during production and harvest.

B. Definitions

1. **Biological diversity** - The existence of complex ecological systems as indicated by the presence of varied species of plants, animals, and other organisms such as are found in natural systems.
2. **Primary ecosystems** – Land that is in its natural state and has not been cultivated within the last 100 years.

C. Crop Production Standards

1. Soil pasteurization (sterilizing soil with steam) is prohibited (IFOAM 4.5.3).
2. Synthetic row covers must be made from products based on polyethylene, polypropylene, or other polycarbonates. Synthetic row covers must be removed from the soil when no longer in use. Synthetic row covers may not be burned on farmland (IFOAM 4.6.3).
3. **Seeds.** Producers must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock: Except, That for a period ending on December 31, 2009, untreated non-organically grown seeds and planting stock may be used to produce an organic crop, only if an equivalent organically grown variety is not commercially available with the exception of seed used for sprouts, which must be organic [IFOAM 4.1.1 and EEC 2092/91 Article 6, Section 3(a)].

D. Conversion time required for European Organic Certification

All sites, fields and orchards must not have any prohibited substances applied within 36 months of the first organic harvest. All sites, fields and orchards must be within the WSDA organic certification program for at least 12 months prior to obtaining European organic certification. Sites will be considered within the WSDA organic certification program from the time they first apply for certification as either transitional or organic (IFOAM 4.2.1 and EEC 2092/91 Annex 1, Section 1.1).

E. Natural Resource and Biological Diversity Conservation

1. Clearance of primary ecosystems for establishment of organic food production is prohibited (IFOAM 2.1.2).
2. Operators must have a plan in place to enhance biodiversity (IFOAM 4.3).



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- a. Biological diversity shall be established, maintained and promoted through the use of various practices which may include, but are not limited to:
 - Establishment or preservation of non-agricultural areas, such as hedgerows, native prairies, wetlands and woodlands, adjacent to or adjoining the field or farm parcel;
 - The planting of species, adjacent to or between cropped areas, that provide habitat for beneficial organisms;
 - The use of rotational or intensive grazing methods on areas maintained as pasture, grazing land or farm lot areas;
 - Introduction of diverse species into any field or farm parcel planted with a perennial crop;
 - Cover cropping; and
 - Soil building practices.
3. Efforts must be made to conserve water and to ensure that farming practices do not degrade water quality (IFOAM 2.2.6).

F. Genetically Modified Organisms

1. Genetically modified organisms may not be produced on conventional landholdings owned by an operator of a farming operation certified to European organic standards (IFOAM 2.3.7).
 - a. The following crops currently have commercially available genetically modified varieties that are allowed for sale in the United States:

i. Canola	viii. Papaya
ii. Chicory	ix. Potato
iii. Corn	x. Soybean
iv. Sweet Corn	xi. Squash
v. Popcorn	xii. Sugarbeet
vi. Cotton	xiii. Cherry Tomato
vii. Flax	xiv. Tomato
2. Producers must have a plan in place to prevent contamination of organic crops by genetically modified crops and crop varieties. Crops contaminated by GMO's are not eligible for European organic certification (IFOAM 2.3.6).

G. Materials

1. In addition to materials prohibited under the US National Organic Standards the following materials are prohibited under the WSDA European Organic Verification Program (IFOAM Appendix 1; IFOAM Appendix 2; EEC 2092/91, Annex II):
 - a. Sodium Nitrate;
 - b. Vitamin D-3 for rodent control;
 - c. Sulfur dioxide for rodent control;
 - d. Vitamins B₁, C, E;
 - e. Gibberellic Acid;
 - f. Antibiotics (streptomycin, terramycin);
 - g. Hydrogen peroxide;
 - h. Ammonium soaps;
 - i. Boric acid for structural pest control;
 - j. Potassium bicarbonate;
 - k. Hydrated lime for disease control;
 - l. Peat for soil conditioning;
 - m. Lignosulfonates for floating tree fruit.
2. Manure – Animal manure may not be from caged poultry operations (EEC 2092/91 Annex II, Part A).
3. Mineral fertilizers – Mineral fertilizers may only be used as a supplement to other practices implemented to ensure long-term fertility needs (IFOAM 4.4.5).



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H. Split Production – Farming operations that produce both organic and conventional food products.

1. Materials used in organic production must not be stored in the same area as materials used in conventional production (IFOAM 3.2.1).
2. Material application records must clearly distinguish material applications made to organic sites and material applications made to conventional sites (IFOAM 3.2.2).
3. Farming operations must maintain harvest records that clearly indicate yields from organic sites and yields from conventional sites (IFOAM 3.2.2).
4. Farming operations must maintain sales records that clearly describe sales of organic and sales of conventional food products. The volume of products sold must correspond to the volume of organic and conventional production harvested (IFOAM 3.2.2).
5. If a certified organic site is removed from organic production, it may not be returned to organic production at a later time (IFOAM 3.3.1). Land may not be converted from conventional to organic, taken out of organic and put back in conventional production and later returned to organic status.
6. Producers may have a portion of their operation certified to National Organic Standards and a portion that is certified to the European organic standards. Producers may split the certification of organic crops: Provided, That :
 - a) A system is in place that prevents contamination and commingling between National Organic Standards certified crops and EOVP certified crops; and
 - b) National Organic Program certified crops and EOVP certified crops are clearly identified during harvest, shipping and distribution.

I. Social Justice (IFOAM 8.1)

1. Farm operations employing ten or more persons must maintain a written policy on farm labor that addresses the requirements of this section.
2. Farm operators must comply with state and federal labor laws. These laws include, but are not limited to:
 - The National Labor Relations Act
 - Fair Labor Standards Act/ Child Labor
3. Under Washington State law agricultural workers must be paid at least the minimum wage for all hours worked. Employers may pay on a piece rate basis or salary basis, but that rate must be equivalent to the minimum wage. The employer must keep track of actual hours worked as well as the piece rate units or salary payment and if the piece rate or salary payment does not equal minimum wage in each workweek, the employer must pay the difference. Minor workers under the age of 16 may be paid 85% of the minimum wage.